

Remarks

Claims 16-31 have been canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-15 are allowable.

Claims Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejects claims 30-31 under 35. U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has canceled claims 30-31. Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Official Action rejected claims 30-31 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneko et al (US Patent No. 5,561,672). Applicants have canceled claims 30-31. Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected claims 16 and 30 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Oz et al (US Patent No. 6,771,087). Applicants have canceled claims 16 and 30. Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected claims 16-24 and 25-29 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaneko et al. Applicants have canceled claims 16-24 and 25-29. Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested, and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities, which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (503) 439-8778 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,

Date:May 15, 2007

/Gregory D. Caldwell/

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